

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-05

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BG

SUBJECT: CONSTABLE TESTIMONY BEFORE FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE

REFERENCES: DACCA 4736 AND DACCA 4739

FOR CHARGE FROM NEA/PAB CONSTABLE

1. FULL STATEMENT BEFORE FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE POUCHED
OCTOBER 19.

2. REFERENCE IN STATEMENT TO SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN
CLOSELY FOLLOWED STATEMENT IN PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY
REPORT OF FEBRUARY 9, 1972 ,PAGE 145: QUOTE WE OBTAINED
ASSURANCE FROM PRESIDENT YAHYA THAT SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN
WOULD NOT BE EXECUTED. UNQUOTE. CONSTABLE STATEMENT WAS
IN CONTEXT OF U.S. EFFORTS IN 1971 TO PROMOTE NEGOTIATED
POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION TO EAST PAKISTAN CRISIS. RELEVANT
PORTION AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE I SHOULD ALSO NOTE HERE THAT
AS PART OF EFFORTS FOR A POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION, THE
UNITED STATES SOUGHT, AND RECEIVED FROM PRESIDENT YAHYA,
ASSURANCES THAT SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN WOULD NOT BE
EXECUTED. THOSE ASSURANCES WERE HONORED, AND FOLLOWING
THE EMERGENCE OF AN INDEPENDENT BANGLADESH, PAKISTAN'S
NEW PRESIDENT, MR. BHUTTO, RELEASED SHEIKH MUJIB AND
ALLOWED HIM TO RETURN TO DACCA. UNQUOTE

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3. FULL STATEMENT REVIEWED HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS, EFFORTS THAT INCLUDED POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION AND EFFORTS TO PREVENT OUTBREAK OF WAR BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN.

4. TRUST THAT IN DEALING WITH ANY INQUIRIES ON THIS TESTIMONY YOU WILL BE ABLE TO EMPHASIZE THAT NOTHING WAS SAID THAT HAS NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN A MATTER OF RECORD FOR SOMETIME. WHILE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN PREFERABLE TO LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE, CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST FOR WITNESS ON EVENTS OF 1971 OBVIOUSLY HAD TO BE HONORED.
KISSINGER

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